



USAID PROMOTING THE RULE OF LAW PROJECT

ANNUAL REPORT: OCTOBER 2016 – SEPTEMBER 2017



USAID

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I. List of Acronyms

A2JI	Access to Justice Initiative
AAPTIP	Australia Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons
ASEAN	The Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CEC	Central Executive Committee
CLE	Continuing Legal Education
CMS	Case Management System
COP	Chief of Party
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
IBAHRI	International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ILAM	Independent Lawyers' Association of Myanmar
MP	Hluttaw Members
NDI	National Democratic Institute
OSCU	Office of the Supreme Court of the Union
PRLP	Promoting the Rule of Law Project
PEA	Political Economy Analysis
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
TCDN	Thwee Community Development Network
TIP	Trafficking-in-Persons
TOT	Training of Trainers
UAGO	Union Attorney General's Office
ULAB	Union Legal Aid Board
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UN	United Nations

II. Executive Summary

During this year, the USAID Promoting the Rule of Law Project (PRLP or the “Project”) provided technical assistance, capacity development, and grants to promote more effective, accountable, and accessible justice sector institutions. PRLP support included technical assistance to the Office of the Supreme Court of the Union (OSCU) and the Union Attorney General’s Office (UAGO), developing a case management system for courts, expanding the pilot court program, and expansion of grant programs to include a focus on trafficking in persons (TIP). Activities focused specifically on increasing legal literacy, access to justice, and the participation of marginalized populations in target states and regions. As in past years, PRLP continued to support the goals of USAID/Burma to strengthen institutions to promote good governance, rule of law and human rights, and expand space for civil society organizations (CSOs) and the media to support democratic transition. Activities in each component are detailed below:

Component 1: Support the Development of a Comprehensive Strategy for National Rule of Law Reform. The Project completed a study tour to the U.S. in March with members of the OSCU, UAGO, private attorneys, and a law professor which focused on continuing legal education for judges, prosecutorial roles during pretrial investigation, justice sector reform, and strategic planning. A key cross-cutting effort this year included TIP assistance. Working in collaboration with the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the Project presented a TIP roundtable at the Hluttaw, utilizing a US expert to review the current law and discuss implementation. In September 2017, PRLP began a political economy analysis focused on rule of law in Myanmar which will be completed in early FY18. This analysis will go beyond a review of institutions and determine *why* things happen rather than *how* they happen, to inform future justice sector activities.

Component 2: Enhance the Capacities of the Union Attorney General’s Office. Work to support professional development at the UAGO focused primarily on advancing the new pilot law office program, with additional support focused on the UAGO’s Public Information Office. The Project conducted a series of practical TIP trainings for UAGO law officers which included the development of a specialized course focused on international and national TIP law, victim protection strategies, interview techniques, corroborative evidence, direct examination, cross examination, and summation.

Component 3: Support to Judicial Self-Governance and Judicial Reform. The Project supported the OSCU in the development of their new 5-year strategic plan, serving as the technical lead for this activity. PRLP continued efforts with the three original pilot courts and five expansion pilot courts, providing on the job support and regular monitoring. PRLP also completed customer service training for more than 850 judges and judicial personnel to enhance their capacity to engage with the media and the public. Testing and expansion continued for the automated case management system (CMS), and the Project provided additional computers for courts to enhance information and communications technology (ICT) capabilities.

Component 4: Develop the Capacity of Civil Society to Engage in Public Policy Development and Advocacy. PRLP is working to promote greater public policy engagement and advocacy by CSOs including development of the Independent Lawyers’ Association of Myanmar (ILAM), a national paralegal network, and the Access to Justice Initiative (A2JI). The Project awarded 18 grants to local organizations that are now providing legal representation, legal counseling and social services, raising awareness of rights, and promoting advocacy. Capacity building support included training for grantees on financial and organizational development, USAID compliance, and monitoring and evaluation.

Objective 2: Increase Legal Literacy, Access to Justice for Marginalized Populations in Target Regions/States. This year more than 200 Myanmar lawyers, paralegals, law students, and civil society representatives attended the launch of the *Legal Aid Toolkit for Myanmar*, a dual-language self-education resource designed to inform and assist Myanmar’s legal aid providers in the development of their case analysis skills and organizational capacity. PRLP also began development of a training curriculum that mirrors the toolkit. Five modules were completed and translated this year, with two more remaining. Grantees provided legal aid services for 683 cases for more than 770 beneficiaries. To date, over 3,330 cases have been handled for 3,784 beneficiaries. Additionally, over 4,280 legal awareness materials were distributed during this year, with over 43,000 distributed cumulatively.

III. Program Activities by Objective/Component

Objective 1: Promote More Effective, Accountable, and Accessible Justice Sector Institutions

COMPONENT 1: SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR NATIONAL RULE OF LAW REFORM

PRLP supported activities this past year to improve justice sector effectiveness, accountability, and accessibility in Myanmar. Key among these was a major cross-cutting effort in promoting TIP awareness and related institutional strengthening, which took place across governmental sectors including the Hluttaw, the OSCU, and the UAGO. The Project led two Hluttaw roundtables, conducted a study tour to the US with subsequent follow-up discussions, organized a US judicial visit to Myanmar, and began a rule of law Political Economy Analysis (PEA).

Political Economy Analysis. In the fourth quarter, PRLP identified and fielded Greg Gisvold, a PEA expert who is an experienced attorney and rule of law development specialist, to conduct a rule of law PEA aimed at outlining the current rule of law context in Myanmar and develop recommendations on where gains can be made. He arrived in-country in late September and began conducting interviews and focus groups to gather the relevant data to complete the analysis. The Chief of Party (COP), Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP), and Senior Justice Program Manager participated in these meetings and focus groups, as well as providing feedback and data to inform the process. The PEA field work will continue through mid-October with initial recommendations expected by the end of October. This analysis will go beyond a review of institutions and determine *why* things happen rather than *how* they happen, to inform future justice sector activities.

Support to OSCU on Data Collection and Analysis. The Project continued data collection and analysis at the eight pilot courts. These courts are spearheading efforts to collect and analyze data that will track court performance, identify trends in criminal and civil cases, and monitor perceptions of the justice sector. Using the results from closed case, pending case, and court user surveys conducted in the previous quarter, the Project continued to monitor performance of each pilot court in cooperation with the OSCU's Case Management Committee. The Project also supported newly introduced performance measurements, developed as part of the OSCU Strategic Plan and pilot court program. This information will inform broader justice sector reforms; therefore, PRLP will continue to engage with the OSCU Case Management Committee and Research Department to ensure they understand and utilize this type of data for policy and planning purposes.

U.S. Judicial Visit to Myanmar. PRLP worked to bolster relationships and dialogue between the U.S. and Myanmar justice sectors and to expose the Myanmar



Judge Duncan meeting with judges at the Hlaing Tharyar Township Court, a USAID pilot court.

judiciary to international best practices. The Project sought to identify U.S. judges and judicial organizations that could build ongoing and sustainable affiliations between the two countries. These efforts began early this year with a visit to Myanmar by Judge Allyson Duncan, U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals and current Chair of the International Justice Resource Center. During this visit, Judge Duncan met with a variety of Myanmar organizations, including the Chief Justice, Attorney General, and the U.S. Ambassador to Myanmar, Scot Marciel. The meetings with Myanmar counterparts provided a base for future U.S.-Myanmar justice sector dialogue.

Judge Duncan's work in Myanmar included: a judicial education workshop with the OSCU; visits to the USAID pilot court in Hlaing Tharyar, the Judicial Training Center, and Yangon University; a prosecution priorities and challenges meeting with the UAGO; legal ethics meeting with ILAM; address to the Law Studies Club; alternative dispute resolution meeting with Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry; reception for Women in the Legal Profession; and anti-corruption discussions with Hluttaw members (MPs). Based on the positive feedback from Myanmar counterparts, PRLP will support additional regular visits from U.S. judges on relevant topics that can enhance justice sector reforms.

Study Tour to the United States. In March, the Project led a successful U.S. study tour to Washington D.C. with Myanmar justice sector participants. The tour addressed the following key reform areas: resolution of commercial disputes, continuing legal education for judges, prosecutorial roles during pretrial investigation, and justice sector reform and strategic planning. Participants included Supreme Court Justice U Tha Htay, UAGO Permanent Secretary Daw Nu Yin and another key UAGO staff member, two representatives of the OSCU, Head of the Yangon University Law Faculty, Dr. Khin Mar Yee, and a member of the ILAM Central Executive Committee (CEC). The Project is currently organizing the next Study Tour, scheduled for February 2018, in the San Francisco Bay Area and Reno, Nevada.



Study tour delegates at the U.S. Supreme Court,

Anti-Trafficking in Persons Initiatives. During this year, the Project expanded efforts to address trafficking in persons, including collaboration with other implementers. PRLP conducted site visits to source areas and trafficking corridors and also met with various organizations including the International Labour Organization, United Nations Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons, the International Organization for Migration, Save the Children, Australia Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP), World Vision, CARE, and Issara. These meetings were vitally important to assessing need and determining appropriate interventions, understanding sources and destination areas for internal and cross-border trafficking, and the intersection of sex trafficking, forced marriages, and forced labor in fisheries, construction, and manufacturing industries. Based on this information, PRLP outlined two key program areas: grants to support anti-TIP programming in prevention, protection, and legal support; and training programs for judges, prosecutors, and lawyers, as well technical capacity building for other state stakeholders.

In December, the Project fielded a former U.S. Department of Justice prosecutor with expertise in TIP to design this programming. PRLP also partnered with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) to host a roundtable discussion with 49 MPs at the Parliamentary Resource Center in Nay Pyi Taw. This discussion focused on the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons and the Myanmar TIP Law, which will be amended next year. This roundtable provided MPs with substantive information to inform revisions of the law and address this human rights issue from an international perspective.



TIP expert Albert Moskowitz addresses MPs at the Parliamentary Resource Center.

COMPONENT 2: ENHANCE THE CAPACITIES OF THE UNION ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

PRLP supported professional development at the UAGO focusing primarily on building the new pilot law office program. Additional activities include support for the UAGO's Public Information Office and TIP training for law officers to better manage these cases.

UAGO Pilot Law Office Program: Launch, Initial Planning and Approved Areas of Activity. Based on an assessment of UAGO work flow and analysis of cases in the criminal justice system conducted in 2016, the Project designed and began pilot test interventions at three law offices in the country. PLRP developed an implementation plan for the pilot program in December 2016. During the second quarter of this year, PRLP made significant progress in launching and implementing the pilot law office program. The Project conducted a launch event and held an orientation in Nay Pyi Taw for more than twenty representatives of the first three pilot law offices in Pyin Oo Lwin District and Chan Aye Tharzan Township, both in Mandalay Division and Mawlamyaing Township in Mon State. The Project collected data to establish distinct baselines for each pilot law office that will be used to measure performance.

In the last quarter of this year, PLRP began activity planning with law officers and assistant law officers. The discussions focused on recommendations contained in the *Report on Possible Procedural Interventions at the Pilot Law Offices* which resulted from an assessment conducted in 2016 and the March 2017 workshop in Nay Pyi Taw with members of the *UAGO Pilot Law Office Supervisory and Management Committee* and leadership of the three pilot law offices. Of the suggested intervention areas, law officers expressed a keen interest in greater pretrial interaction between the police and law officers and pretrial preparations with victims and witnesses in the appropriate cases. In addition, PRLP began exploring the possibility of establishing a Victim Witness Coordinator position for the pilot law offices.

Pilot Law Office Approved Areas of Activity. In addition to the visits to the pilot law offices, PRLP staff, including the DCOP and Senior Justice Program Manager, met twice with UAGO Director General (Prosecution Department), Daw Khin Cho Ohn, and her staff to discuss and prioritize the pilot activities. As a result, another meeting was held in late August with the Attorney General, Union-level leadership, and law officers of the pilot offices to obtain approval for next steps in the pilot program. This resulted in the approval of five areas of activity, with the caveat that agreement



Pilot Law Office Program Orientation Participants in Nay Pyi

from police and courts, as well as the private attorneys would be required. These areas include: (1) greater law officer and police interaction and coordination; (2) victim-witness support and outreach by law offices; (3) vertical case assignment in certain cases; (4) modern automated case registration and data collection; and (5) developing a more efficient and effective law office work-space (including a general assessment and recommendations for the Township and District law offices).

Pilot Law Office Automated Case Registration and Data Collection. To provide the initial foundation for implementing automated case registration and data collection and management at the law office level, PRLP procured equipment for the pilot law offices including desktop computers, printers, and essential peripherals. PRLP conducted basic computer skills training which included keyboarding and use of Microsoft Suite applications. More advanced ICT training is planned as automation advances. PRLP ICT consultant, Dr. Kazimierz Lobaza, conducted site visits in September to the pilot law offices to develop recommendations for developing an automated registration and data collection system.

Workshop with UAGO Pilot Law Office Management Committee. PRLP conducted a workshop for members of the UAGO Pilot Law Office Supervisory and Management Committees during the second quarter of this year. The workshop focused on the findings of the closed case surveys and process mappings noted above. Recommendations included reducing pre-trial detention time, improving investigation procedures, and speeding the dismissal of cases not suitable for prosecution. Diversion systems for juvenile offenders were discussed as well.

TIP Skills Course for UAGO Law Officers. PRLP collaborated with AAPTIP to conduct practical trainings for UAGO law officers, including development of a specialized course focused on international and national TIP law, victim protection strategies, interview techniques, corroborative evidence, direct examination, cross examination, and summation. The first course, which was held in June 2017, developed practical skills for TIP law officers during the pretrial phase, including recommended topics to cover, use of open and closed questions, and how to recognize and avoid coaching. PRLP is continuing this collaboration and will conduct follow-up TIP training in November 2017 that builds on the previous themes of pretrial preparation and interviewing victims/survivors and witnesses.

Support to the UAGO's Public Information Office (PIO) and UAGO Public Outreach Work Plan.

The project trained 433 members of the UAGO and OSCU to engage with the media and public. The program utilized mock press conferences to build practical skills. During the first quarter of this year, PRLP worked with the PIO to develop their first *Media Disclosure Guidelines* and a three-year work plan for public information officers. PRLP anticipates fielding Public Information Advisor, Stephanie Gruner Buckley,



Mock press conferences help UAGO officials hone their media engagement skills, Nay Pyi Taw.

in late November/early December to continue building these skills, ensure implementation of the work plan, and conduct a training of trainers.

COMPONENT 3: SUPPORT TO JUDICIAL SELF- GOVERNANCE AND JUDICIAL REFORM

During this year, PRLP continued support for the eight pilot courts, including conducting monitoring and court user surveys, as well as providing customer service trainings. Testing on the automated CMS continued and additional computers were provided to courts to enhance their ICT capabilities. PRLP also supported the OSCU in developing the Strategic Plan for 2018-2022. The Project conducted TIP roundtables with the judiciary as part of a multi-targeted awareness and skill development effort with the UAGO and the Hluttaw.

Ongoing Support to Pilot Courts. Initial meetings, held at the end of 2016, focused on case management procedures and witnesses attendance. The meetings continued throughout the year to ensure strong leadership and engagement with pilot court activities. In the second quarter of this year, PLRP pilot court coordinators visited each of the eight pilot courts at least twice. During these standardized visits, the coordinators conducted question and answer sessions with judges and staff and reviewed the use of the case tracking system and intake procedures with clerks. Trial monitoring activities reviewed procedures for compliance with the OSCU's national Case Management Plan. Court user surveys were conducted semi-annually in each pilot court to measure program performance. The OSCU established coordinating committees composed of representatives from the OSCU, High Courts, and other justice stakeholders at each pilot court site.

Court Customer Service Training to Judges and Court Staff. The Project completed customer service trainings for more than 850 judges and court personnel. The training program aims to create a culture of customer service at the courts, providing new techniques and communication skills for personnel to improve service quality and overcome negative public perception. To ensure sustainability, PRLP provided training of trainers for court personnel who can, and did, replicate the training in other courts.

On the Job Training Program for Pilot Court Judges and Court Staff. This year, PRLP facilitated on-the-job trainings for pilot court staff and judges, designed to develop case management skills. Typically, judges are transferred to a different court each year, creating a loss of talent in the pilot courts and costing valuable retraining time. This on-the-job training helped speed the transition when new judges were assigned to the pilot courts. Also, the Project worked with the OSCU to introduce the first practical skills training to the "recruitment judge" orientation course. The course is now a permanent part of the new judge curriculum.



New judges learn to apply modern management techniques at the Judicial Training Center, Hlaing Tharyar.

Pilot Courts - Best Practice Manual. In late 2016, the Project developed a best practices implementation guide designed to help judges and key justice stakeholders replicate case

management techniques and processes that were successful in the initial pilot courts. The guide focuses on conducting court performance surveys; implementing case management procedures, such as pretrial conferences; and guidelines for the use of automated case tracking systems.

Phase One Pilot Court Evaluations. PRLP completed an evaluation workshop with representatives from the three initial pilot courts and OSCU leadership at the Supreme Court in Nay Pyi Taw on August 28-29, 2017. Judge and court personnel discussed with OSCU leadership their success and challenges and sought to outline next steps. Positive results noted during the conference include an increase in court user satisfaction, hopefully a result of the effective customer service training conducted by PRLP. The initial pilot courts saw an increase in court user satisfaction which is currently at 68%, up from a baseline of 61.5% in 2015. A notable and important increase was that 75% of people reported they were treated equally (up from 62% over the baseline) and 76% say that court personnel treated them with courtesy and respect (up from 62% over the baseline). Court effectiveness was also rated higher at 60%, increasing both of the last two years from a baseline of 52%.

One of the reasons for these improved measures may include the fact that criminal postponement rates have been reduced from 62% to 31% in the past year and that civil postponement rates have decreased from 43% to 16.4% in that same time period. The courts are also meeting new time standards with 76% of criminal cases on time (defined as 85% disposed of within 180 days), up from 59%. Overall clearance rates, though slightly less than last year, are still higher than the baseline in 2013 and show an impressive 98% in criminal cases and 99% in civil cases. These gains have been made despite challenges such as limited internet access and the yearly transfer of judges between courts, requiring additional learning time and loss of institutional knowledge.

Phase Two Pilot Court Monitoring. During the year, the Project monitored implementation of new case management techniques in phase two pilot courts and continued to develop skills of judges and court staff. PRLP worked to ensure that courts had intake centers, information counters, benches for waiting rooms, and access to court libraries. Court brochures provided the public with information about their rights and helped them understand various judicial processes. The Project also conducted computer skills training for 106 judges and court personnel. In September, PRLP completed extensive data collection of the five phase two pilot courts and is now analyzing the data for presentation in an evaluation workshop with the OSCU in November.

Continued Development of Automated Case Management System. Manual case processing procedures are a factor in case delays and result in a lack of comprehensive and verifiable data for justice sector management decisions. To address this issue, the PRLP ICT consultant, Dr. Lobaza, worked in collaboration with the OSCU Case Management Committee and ICT Department to develop an automated CMS. In early 2017, the Project worked with the OSCU to develop a CMS Development and Deployment Plan, whereby the will take an increasing management role through June 2018, at which time oversight for the system will be handed over to the OSCU. This Plan includes a three-year (2018-2020) implementation process, a national rollout strategy, as well as budgetary and ICT requirements.

Since May 2017, the CMS system has been implemented in two pilot courts, both of which were involved in system development and testing: Patheingyi Township Court (Civil) and Chan Aye Tharzan Township Court (Criminal). In September, Dr. Lobaza returned to Myanmar to finalize the system, validate testing, meet with judges and court personnel, and conduct court site visits to identify any issues and obtain feedback. Judges and court staff agree that the current version of the CMS, for both criminal and civil cases, meets their requirements and no further testing is required.

The next steps to further expand and integrate the CMS will include: (1) expansion to other pilot courts process with a step by step process focusing on one case type at a time; (2) development of statistical and other management reports for civil and criminal cases; (3) additional translation of certain fields, assuring that the CMS is available in both English and Myanmar languages; and (4) transfer of ownership to the OSCU for further implementation and maintenance. The CMS system and technical support, as evidenced in these two pilot courts, will ultimately help the Myanmar courts improve their efficiency and better serve the public.



PRLP ICT Consultant reviews the CMS with court personnel

Continuing Support to Strategic Planning for OSCU. In 2014, the Project provided support to develop the first *OSCU Strategic Plan – 2014-2017*. In July 2017, PRLP began supporting the OSCU to develop a more ambitious five-year (2018-2022) plan. This plan will address a nationwide legal aid program and the implementation of the CMS throughout the county, incorporating the lessons learned from the pilot court program. PRLP continues to serve as the lead technical advisor to the OSCU’s Strategic Planning Working Group. Since late July, the working group has met regularly to develop the plan framework, with specific activities and performance indicators. Project staff, including the DCOP and Senior Justice Program Manager, participated in these sessions and provide technical assistance to the Working Group to help ensure that the strategic plan is comprehensive, realistic, and addresses important due process and human rights concerns. The working group sessions will continue into FY18 with a final draft submitted to the Chief Justice in November.

TIP Roundtable with the OSCU. In the first quarter of the year, PRLP conducted a roundtable which was chaired by the Director General and included judges and members of the Criminal Department who have dealt with TIP cases. The discussion focused on an enhanced role for Law Officers during pretrial investigation, which was a key recommendation from the UAGO Law Office Case Management Assessment.

Legal Aid Law Implementation Planning. The Legal Aid Law was adopted in May and members were appointed, though not yet approved, for the Union Legal Aid Board (ULAB). By-laws were drafted and are currently under review. The ULAB will serve as the implementing mechanism for the law and the OSCU has asked PRLP to take the lead in coordinating donor support. The Project meet with the Supreme Court Legal Aid Implementation Committee and discussed various models of public defender systems. Justice U Tha Htay supports creating a pilot legal aid program based on the previous implementation plan developed by the Project in 2016, but noted that these steps would need ULAB approval. Recruitment began for a PRLP legal aid program manager to support these efforts in the coming year and an expert will be fielded in November to begin activities, including a roundtable with the OSCU.

**COMPONENT 4:
DEVELOP THE
CAPACITY OF CIVIL
SOCIETY TO ENGAGE
IN PUBLIC POLICY
DEVELOPMENT AND
ADVOCACY**

PRLP is working to promote greater public policy engagement and advocacy by CSOs through grants and capacity building of local organizations. The Project continued support this year for a bar association, ILAM; a national paralegal network, organized by grantee, Namati; and, the Access to Justice Initiative (A2JI). Both ILAM and the national paralegal network activities are further discussed under Objective 2.

A2JI. A2JI is a consortium of more than 40 CSOs which focuses on a wide range of issues including access to justice, research-based advocacy efforts for reform of specific laws, and promotion of transparency and citizen oversight of public justice actors through monitoring activities. During this year, the Project supported A2JI to develop a multi-year strategic planning process that creates a comprehensive activity framework and annual work plans for each of A2JI's three clusters areas – research, advocacy, and monitoring and oversight – and to build organizational development and strategic partnerships. The Project also supported A2JI in their website development, where they continue to collect and upload data, and finalize a logo.

A2JI continues to build strategic partnerships for promoting access to justice among CSOs, policy makers, and development partners. A2JI held separate meetings with the Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business and the Anti-Corruption Commission to discuss anti-corruption issues, as well as explore potential avenues for future collaboration. In August 2017, A2JI conducted their first collaboration with the pilot court in Hlaing Thar Yar to improve their understanding of court procedures and possible avenues of corruption. Also in August, A2JI presented at a community forum on corruption in southern Shan State, an event organized by the Rule of Law Centers and implemented by the International Development Law Organization.



A2JI technical expert explains provision of the Anti-Corruption Law

In June 2017, A2JI partnered with a legal aid law firm to conduct an Anti-Corruption Law Analysis Workshop that identified 13 sections of the law needing clarification and revision. In September, A2JI and the Local Resource Centre partnered to deliver anti-corruption training for 45 participants in Mawlamyaing. The training resulted in increased community awareness of corruption issues in various government sectors including Health, Education, and Immigration; better understanding of the Myanmar Anti-Corruption Law and UN Convention against Corruption; and, a recognition of how corrupt practices threaten the rule of law.

A2JI worked with the Hluttaw, identifying and engaging in advocacy efforts with the new government and parliament. With support from PRLP, they partnered with NDI to conduct roundtable discussions on 22 different laws, including a focus on the need for public consultation in the drafting and adoption of laws. A2JI and NDI also brought together 49 MPs to present civil society analyses and recommendations on the TIP law.

Objective 2: Increase Legal Literacy, Access to Justice for Marginalized Populations in Target Regions/States

PRLP focused on building capacity of Myanmar's legal aid providers, increasing legal literacy, and improving access to justice. These efforts included development of the *Legal Aid Toolkit*, support for ILAM, the establishment of a national paralegal network, and a grants program.

Continuing Legal Aid Toolkit Roll-out and Curriculum Development. This year more than 200 Myanmar lawyers, paralegals, law students, and civil society representatives attended the launch of the *Legal Aid Toolkit for Myanmar*, a dual-language self-education resource designed to improve

The Legal Aid Toolkit features guidelines for legal aid lawyers and clinics, including:

- Case Analysis
- Interviewing Witnesses
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Trial Skills
- What it Means to be a Legal Aid Provider
- Legal Aid Management
- Sample Application and Intake Forms
- Statutory Interpretation Skills

skills and capacity of legal aid providers. PRLP also began developing a training curriculum that mirrors the toolkit and provides skills-based practical activities, handouts for participants, agenda outlines, and pre- and post-assessments. The modules are currently being translated and the final two will be completed in FY18. Once finalized, the curriculum will be used for training legal aid providers, and as a basis for training of trainers (TOT) to further expand the reach of the toolkit.

Legal Aid Database. PRLP continued work with an ICT developer, Zwenexsys, to develop a legal aid database that will serve as a comprehensive case management system for any legal aid provider. The design of the database is based on the *Legal Aid Toolkit* and will collect critical information for better case management and reporting. Near the end of this year, the developer made final changes, conducted data validation, and developed specialized reports. Once user testing and final design are complete in early FY18, PRLP will provide the database free of charge to any interested legal aid provider in the country, a move which will stimulate more complete data across the sector. The Project will also provide training, as well as a TOT, on the system so that it can be widely utilized throughout the country.

Support to National Bar Association. PRLP continued support for ILAM through a grant to the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI). The grant focuses on three major activities: establishment of ILAM's secretariat, opening pilot legal libraries, and delivering continuing legal education. In August, ILAM completed a Continuing Legal Education Program (CLE) for 30 lawyers from various townships in the Tanintharyi Region that enhanced their skills to handle criminal and civil cases, including appeals. In September, ILAM held their Members' Day in Yangon with more than 200 participants, including ILAM members, lawyers, law students and community members, who participated in a panel discussion on the *Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Myanmar Citizens*.

Another notable achievement this year was the development of 25 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on organizational development topics that were informed by international practices and will be used to guide further development and expansion of ILAM. The ILAM Central Executive Committee (CEC) met several times during the year and developed resolutions on issues such as lobbying strategies for reform of the Bar Council Act and a potential strategic partnership with the International Commission of Jurists. In May 2017, ILAM officially inaugurated its Yangon office. Work also commenced on the establishment of satellite legal libraries, which began in May with a library needs assessment.

The first issue of the ILAM Newsletter and the ILAM website (www.ilam.org.mm) was launched in September 2017. On the following day, ILAM launched a legal library in a ceremony with high level officials including Dr. Myint Naing, the Prime Minister of Sagaing Region; U Win Myint, the Chief Justice of Sagaing Region; and U Khin Maung Hla, the Attorney General of Sagaing Region. In July 2017, ILAM expanded their activities with support from other donors and private agencies, including a program with the International Commission of Jurists on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. They also conducted a Real Estate Law program, with funding assistance from the Toener Group and China Pan-Mekong Law Firm, during an ILAM Open House Day.



ILAM inaugurated a new office and law library in Monywa

Support to a Paralegal Network. In Myanmar, where access to legal services is limited, paralegals can play a vital role in providing legal services at the grassroots level. This year, PRLP achieved a major milestone in increasing access to justice by launching the national paralegal network on April 7, 2017. The network launch, conducted in conjunction with Project grantee, Namati, was the culmination of months of work and included paralegals from throughout Myanmar, as well as international donors. Namati established the Network by providing targeted technical assistance to community paralegals using a grassroots approach, including the development of local working groups. Many volunteers have worked to increase awareness among citizens who are not familiar with their rights or do not know how to hold the government accountable. When necessary, they refer clients to lawyers who can handle their cases in court.

Grants Program Overview. The Project is currently managing 13 legal aid grants and 5 TIP grants. In July, the PRLP grants team completed Project Cycle Management Training for all grantees and a Financial Management and Report Writing Training for the 5 TIP grantees and ILAM secretariat staff in late August. These trainings are designed to build grantee capacity and promote sustainability of activities. Topics focused on USAID rules and regulations, timely and high-quality reporting, and financial management and organizational capacities.

PRLP grantee capacity building trainings reached 145 beneficiaries this year, with 300 participants trained to date.

Grants Program: Legal Aid Initiatives. PRLP awarded 13 grants focused on providing direct legal aid services for vulnerable and marginalized populations in eight of Myanmar's states/regions. Some partners will also provide assistance to victims/survivors in the form of transportation support to attend court proceedings, safe house services, emergency support, and counseling. Each organization is listed in Table 1.

Table 1: RFA 2016-007 – Legal Aid Initiatives Grants			
Grant No.	Grantee Name	Grant Title	Grant Location
PRL-G-007-001	Myitmakha News Agency	Legal Aid Centers – Northern Shan	Northern Shan
PRL-G-007-002	Sagaing Region Youth Network	Justice House	Sagaing

PRL-G-007-003	Myanmar Justice Association	Rule of Law Project	Mandalay
PRL-G-007-004	Social Care Volunteer Group	Rule of Law for Children	Magway
PRL-G-007-005	Green Peasant Institute	Ayeyarwaddy Peasant Legal Aid Center	Ayeyarwaddy
PRL-G-007-006	Jeepyah Civil Society Development Organization	Her Justice	Mon
PRL-G-007-007	Phoenix Association	Community Participatory Legal Aid Initiative	Mandalay, Yangon
PRL-G-007-008	Mahawthadha Legal Aid Association	Legal Aid for Farmers and Rural People	Ayeyarwaddy
PRL-G-007-009	Genuine People's Servants	Assistance for Victims of Injustice and Human Trafficking	Yangon, Mon, Sagaing
PRL-G-007-010	Second Tap Root Organization	Justice to Rule of Law	Mandalay
PRL-G-007-011	Legal Clinic Myanmar	Justice First Project: Access to Justice for Women, Children, and Disadvantaged People	Kachin, Ayeyarwaddy
PRL-G-007-012	Humanity Institute	Kachin Legal Aid Center	Kachin
PRL-G-007-013	Integrated Development Executive Association	Promoting Rule of Law by Community-Based Legal Service Initiatives in Northern and Southern Shan State	Northern Shan, Southern Shan

Legal Aid Services and Awareness Raising Activities. Grantees have made considerable impact providing legal aid services in 683 cases this year reaching over 770 beneficiaries. To date, over 3,330 cases have been documented, serving 3,784 beneficiaries. See table 2 below for more details on specific types of services provided. Additionally, over 4,280 legal awareness materials have been distributed during this year, with over 43,000 distributed cumulatively. See table 3 below for more information.

Table 2: Legal Aid Services Provided by Grantees (FY 2017)								
Type of services	FY 2017 Achievement				Cumulative Achievement			
	Number of cases	Number of beneficiaries			Number of cases	Number of beneficiaries		
		# Men	# Women	Total		# Men	# Women	Total
Free legal representation	207	185	77	262	1211	1092	442	1534
Referral	13	4	9	13	328	167	166	333
Legal advice	460	218	275	493	1759	899	909	1808
Safe house	0	0	0	0	63	0	63	63
Mediation	3	0	3	3	22	17	29	46
Total	683	407	364	771	3383	2175	1609	3784

Table 3: Legal Awareness Materials and Outreach Provided by Grantees (FY 2017)		
Types	FY 2017 Achievement	Cumulative Achievement
Pamphlets	2150	28494
Newsletters	-	6000
Manuals/booklets	50	149
Mon State Rule of law report	-	2000
Legal service mapping	-	4450
Others IEC (Books, Caps, Bags, Vinyl, etc.)	2084	2084
Total	4284	43177
Direct outreach contact to Citizens	-	984
News stories published on lines media	-	124

Grants Program: Anti-Trafficking in Persons Initiatives. PRLP awarded 5 grants that focus specifically on TIP. Activities include awareness-raising and prevention, protection and assistance for victims/survivors, legal advice, and court representation. Many activities are targeted in border and transit areas where the need is the greatest and there is strong potential to affect change. The grantees are listed in Table 4 below.

Table 4: RFA 2017-008 – Anti-Trafficking in Persons Initiatives Grants			
Grant No.	Grantee Name	Grant Title	Grant Location
PRL-G-008-001	Thwee Community Development Network	Prevention of Human Trafficking Project	Kayin
PRL-G-008-002	Mawk Kon Local Development Organization	Prevention of Human Trafficking in Children, Youth and Women	Eastern Shan
PRL-G-008-003	Genuine People's Servants	Prevention and Protection from Human Trafficking	Kachin, Northern Shan
PRL-G-008-004	Htoi Gender and Development Foundation	Promoting Rule of Law for Anti – Human Trafficking Project	Kachin, Northern Shan
PRL-G-008-005	Karuna Mission Social Solidarity	Reducing Human Trafficking in Myanmar	Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway, Eastern Shan

Anti-TIP day events. Grantees conducted several TIP events commemorating Myanmar's annual anti-trafficking day. One event was held by grantee, Mawkon, in Kengtung, Eastern Shan State, which is a TIP gateway to China and Thailand. On September 13, 2017, more than 500 people including the Deputy State General Administrator, State Deputy People's Police Force, State Anti-Trafficking Task Force commander, political parties, MPs, state and district level officers, and CSOs participated in the 5th annual anti-trafficking day. Events included essay, cartoon, poster, and painting competitions for middle and high school students. These items were displayed in an exhibition at the event, which also included a video in local dialect to raise awareness.

Another event was conducted by Thwee Community Development Network (TCDN)



Deputy State General Administrator views Exhibition of Myanmar Anti- Human Trafficking Day

on September 16, 2017, to emphasize TIP efforts along the Myanmar-Thailand border. Myawaddy is a border area known for TIP where TCDN is working to improve awareness and stakeholder participation using a community focused approach. TCDN is engaging with both Myanmar and Thailand to build cross-border collaboration that can improve enforcement of the anti-trafficking law and provide awareness training in Kyautkayiek and Myawaddy. The event included 239 participants, including representatives of the Department of Social Welfare, General Administrative Office, Anti-Trafficking Task Force, Myanmar Women's Affair Federation, Ministry of Human Development and Security and Immigration Departments from Thailand, civil society organizations, high school students, and the community. The event featured a panel discussion on Human Trafficking and personal security and a unique Quiz Show where the students and community participants demonstrated their knowledge of TIP to win prizes.

IV. Grantee Trainings, Workshops, and Conferences

Topic / Event	Achievement This Year (Oct 2016- Sep2017))				Cumulative Achievement			
	Trainings/ Workshops	Number of Participants			Trainings/ Workshops	Number of Participants		
		M	F	Total		M	F	Total
Human rights and LGBT rights trainings	-	-	-	-	13	193	138	331
Basic Legal Research Skills Training	-	-	-	-	1	8	10	18
Capacity Building training for Junior lawyers & Paralegals	1	2	5	7	8	28	39	67
Community based Paralegal trainings	19	253	259	512	36	416	516	932
LGBT Rights and Paralegals Trainings	-	-	-	-	1	18	5	23
Paralegal Advance Training	-	-	-	-	8	24	58	82
Referral Strengthening System Training	-	-	-	-	1	5	25	30
Community based legal awareness training/workshops	5	53	113	166	330	3859	5896	9755
National Mock Trial workshop	-	-	-	-	4	37	119	156
National Myanmar CLE Summer School training workshop	-	-	-	-	1	4	56	60

Campaign on Domestic/ gender based violence	-	-	-	-	35	1017	1664	2681
Training on SGBV, CEDAW, women rights and human rights issues / trafficking	3	22	39	61	33	170	376	546
Communication/ presentation/ facilitation skills training	-	-	-	-	5	28	57	85
Skills trainings (case management, interviewing, counseling, mobilization)	2	19	35	54	14	129	199	328
Human rights / advocacy trainings	-	-	-	-	3	14	47	61
Investigative journalism trainings	-	-	-	-	2	8	5	13
Citizen journalism trainings	-	-	-	-	2	14	8	22
Law review workshops	-	-	-	-	16	439	238	677
Total	30	349	451	800	513	6411	9456	15867



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